UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA JACKSONVILLE DIVISION

IN RE:	
RMS TITANIC, Inc., et al.,1	CHAPTER 11
	Case No. 3:16-bk-02230-PMG
Debtors.	

OMNIBUS REPLY (I) IN FURTHER SUPPORT OF DEBTORS' MOTION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER (A) APPROVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND SALE PROCEDURES; (B) APPROVING FORM AND MANNER OF NOTICES; (C) APPROVING FORM OF ASSET PURCHASE AGREEMENT; (D) APPROVING BREAK UP-FEE AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT; (E) SCHEDULING AUCTION AND HEARING TO CONSIDER FINAL APPROVAL OF SALE, INCLUDING REJECTION OR ASSUMPTION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RELATED EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND UNEXPIRED LEASES; (F) AUTHORIZING SALE OF THE TRANSFERRED ASSETS FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS, CLAIMS, ENCUMBRANCES, AND INTERESTS; AND (G) APPROVING SETTLEMENT WITH THE PACBRIDGE PARTIES; AND (H) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF AND (II) TO THE OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSES IN OPPOSITION THERETO

RMS Titanic, Inc. ("<u>RMST</u>") and certain of its affiliates, as Debtors and Debtors in Possession in the above-captioned case (collectively, the "<u>Debtors</u>"), by and through their undersigned counsel, hereby file this omnibus reply (the "<u>Reply</u>") (i) in further support of *Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order (A) Approving Competitive Bidding and Sale*

¹ The Debtors in the Chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number include: RMS Titanic, Inc. (3162); Premier Exhibitions, Inc. (4922); Premier Exhibitions Management, LLC (3101); Arts and Exhibitions International, LLC (3101); Premier Exhibitions International, LLC (5075); Premier Exhibitions NYC, Inc. (9246); Premier Merchandising, LLC (3867); and Dinosaurs Unearthed Corp. (7309). The Debtors' service address is 3045 Kingston Court, Suite I, Peachtree Corners, Georgia 30071.

Procedures; (B) Approving Form and Manner of Notices; (C) Approving Form of Asset Purchase Agreement; (D) Approving Break Up-Fee and Expense Reimbursement; (E) Scheduling Auction and Hearing to Consider Final Approval of Sale, Including Rejection or Assumption and Assignment of Related Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases; (F) Authorizing Sale of the Transferred Assets Free and Clear of All Liens, Claims, Encumbrances, and Interests; and (G) Approving Settlement with the PacBridge Parties; and (H) Granting Related Relief [D.E. 1055] (the "Sale Motion"); and (ii) to (A) the response of the Official Committee of Equity Security Holders (the "Equity Committee") in opposition to the Motion [D.E. 1170] (the "EC Objection"); (B) the limited objection of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Creditors' Committee") to the Motion [D.E. 1168] (the "CC Objection" and, together with the EC Objection, the "Committee Objections"); and (C) the objection of Euclid Claims Recovery LLC ("Euclid") to the Motion [D.E. 1109] (the "Euclid Objection"). In support of this Reply, the Debtors respectfully represent the following:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

The amended plans and disclosure statements recently filed by the Equity Committee and Creditors' Committee confirm one inescapable truth: the APA executed by and among the Debtors and the Stalking Horse Purchaser is the only fully-funded transaction before the Court. In an attempt to deflect attention from this material fact, the Committee Objections inaccurately suggest the APA is a sweetheart deal negotiated in secret, providing for a private

² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein, shall have the meaning ascribed to such terms in the Sale Motion.

transfer of assets at bargain prices to the detriment of creditors and stakeholders. To the contrary, the APA offers the Debtors' creditors and stakeholders both (i) a substantial recovery, by way of a firm purchase price, and (ii) the value-maximizing potential of higher and better offers at a public auction – in which anyone can participate, subject only to reasonable bid qualifications. Critically, the APA is the only transaction to do so.

Nevertheless, the Committees continue to balk at the APA in favor of their own, competing Chapter 11 plans, both of which lack sufficient, committed funding (and, therefore, feasibility). Indeed, both Committees filed scattershot objections to the Sale Motion, accusing the Debtors of, among other things, withholding access to diligence and attempting to consummate an insider transaction. The Committee Objections are largely misleading, grossly inaccurate in some instances, and should be overruled for two primary reasons.

First, the APA is not an insider transaction. The Stalking Horse Purchaser does not fall within any of the subcategories which make up the definition of "insider" under the Bankruptcy Code – a point that the Committees have yet to refute. In addition, the shareholders of the Stalking Horse Purchaser do not exercise managerial control over the Debtors. And, more importantly, even if the Stalking Horse Purchaser were an insider, the Bankruptcy Code does not forbid insider transactions; it simply subjects them to heightened scrutiny – a standard the proposed transaction unquestionably meets. The APA was heavily negotiated by the Debtors' professionals at arm's length, and the Committees have no evidence to the contrary.

Second, contrary to the Committee Objections, the proposed bid procedures are fair, customary, and designed to maximize value to creditors through a competitive bidding process. The CC Objection argues that the equity holders of the Stalking Horse Purchaser have somehow colluded in an effort to stifle competitive bidding and exclude the Museums from an auction process. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Debtors' professionals have repeatedly invited the Museums to participate in the competitive auction process and submit a topping bid. The Museums have refused to do so, in each instance referring to their "unique" circumstances and purported inability to post a non-refundable deposit. In reality, the Museums simply are unwilling to have any skin in the game – a decision which more appropriately reflects their own fundraising concerns rather than any legitimate grievances with the Debtors' proposed bidding procedures.

Likewise, the EC Objection falls flat and, in fact, presents a completely erroneous interpretation of the bidding procedures. Specifically, the Equity Committee argues that, from June 14, 2018 (the date of the APA execution) through the conclusion of the proposed auction, the APA prohibits the Debtors from initiating contact with, soliciting officers from, or otherwise facilitating discussions or negotiations with, parties interested in submitting a competing transaction. Much like the arguments presented in the CC Objection, nothing could be further from the truth. Section 5.12 of the APA is clear that any prohibition against actively soliciting competing offers is limited to: (i) the time between the APA execution and the date the bidding procedures order is entered by the Court and (ii) after the date that the auction is closed. Following the entry of the order approving the bidding procedures and until the auction is closed, there is no prohibition against the Debtors soliciting offers for a

competing transaction. In fact, the proposed bidding procedures expressly provide that the Debtors intend to actively solicit offers for a competing transaction. Thus, the EC Objection is simply wrong and, stripped of its erroneous interpretation of the APA, the Equity Committee lacks any legitimate argument that the bidding procedures were "strategically designed to limit competition and chill bidding."

In sum, the Committee Objections provide no legitimate basis on which to deny or otherwise modify the Sale Motion, APA, or any other supporting document. For these reasons and as set forth more fully below, the Committee Objections should be overruled in their entirety and the Sale Motion should be approved.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter under 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1209.

RELEVANT BACKGROUND

- 2. On June 14, 2016 (the "<u>Petition Date</u>"), each of the Debtors filed a voluntary petition in this Court for relief under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. § 101, *et seq.* (the "<u>Bankruptcy Code</u>").
- 3. The Debtors continue to manage and operate their business as debtors in possession under Bankruptcy Code sections 1107 and 1108.
- 4. On August 24, 2016, the United States Trustee appointed the Creditors' Committee and the Equity Committee (collectively, the "Committees") [D.E. 166, 167].

- 5. On June 1, 2018, the Equity Committee filed a *Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization Proposed by the Official Committee of Equity Security Holders of Premier Exhibitions, Inc.* (the "EC Plan") [D.E. 1045] and accompanying disclosure statement ("EC Disclosure") [D.E. 1044].
- 6. On June 15, 2018, the Debtors filed the Sale Motion seeking approval of, *inter alia*, competitive bidding and sale procedures, the form of an APA, certain protections for the designated Stalking Horse Purchaser, a settlement with the PacBridge Parties, and authorization for the Debtors to sell the Transferred Assets to a Prevailing Bidder free and clear of all liens, claims, encumbrances and interests.
- 7. On June 29, 2018, the Creditors' Committee filed a *Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization Proposed by the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, the Board of Trustees of National Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland, and Running Subway Productions, LLC* (the "CC Plan") [D.E. 1085] and accompanying disclosure statement (the "CC Disclosure") [D.E. 1084].
- 8. On July 25, 2018, the Court conducted a status conference during which it heard from all interested parties regarding proposed dispositions of the Debtors' assets. And, on August 2, 2018, the Court entered its *Order on Status Conference* [D.E. 1147] (the "Status Conference Order"), pursuant to which it set a hearing for August 30, 2018 to consider the Sale Motion along with the adequacy of the EC Disclosure and CC Disclosure.

- 9. On August 24, 2018 the Creditors' Committee filed its CC Objection; and, on August 27, 2018, the Equity Committee filed its EC Objection. The Committee Objections both seek substantially the same relief denial of the Debtors' Sale Motion.³
- 10. On August 28, 2018, the Creditors' Committee filed a First Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation [DE 1176] and accompanying Disclosure Statement [DE 1177] (collectively, the "Amended CC Plan Documents").
- 11. On August 29, 2018, the Equity Committee filed an Amended Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization [DE 1182-1] and Amended Disclosure Statement [DE 1181-1] (collectively, the "Amended EC Plan Documents").
- 12. The Amended EC Plan Documents and the Amended CC Plan Documents show that both Committees lack adequate, committed funding for their proposed transactions.

REPLY

13. The Committee Objections,⁴ to a large extent, implicate the same two themes:⁵ (i) the Debtors' proposed asset sale was unduly influenced by insiders and (ii) the proposed bidding procedures will stifle competitive bidding. Accordingly, Sections (I) and (II) of this

³ Although, facially, the CC Objection requests modification of the relief sought in the Sale Motion (rather than outright denial), the modifications the Creditors' Committee seeks would eviscerate the Sale Motion. The CC Objection, therefore, functionally seeks denial of the Sale Motion.

⁴ As noted above, Euclid filed an objection; however, its bases for objecting are subsumed entirely by the Committee Objections. Thus, while the Debtors intend for this Reply to serve as a response to the substance of the Euclid Objection, there is no separate reference to it.

⁵ Notably, both Committee Objections contain similar omissions regarding the Admiralty Court. The CC Objection, for example, states that "the Museums and the Equity Committee have moved to intervene in the [Admiralty Court] action" but neglects to note that Judge Smith has agreed with the Court's jurisdictional analysis in the August 2, 2018 Scheduling Order. *See* Transcript of Proceedings, dated August 21, 2018, attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

Reply respond to the themes shared among the Committee Objections, while the balance of the Reply addresses objection-specific allegations or contentions.

I. INSIDER ALLEGATIONS

- 14. The Committee Objections both allege that the Debtors' APA is a sale to, or influenced by, insiders of the Debtors. *See* EC Objection, at 13 (alleging that the APA was "negotiated by and among insiders of the Debtors."); CC Objection, at ¶ 9 fn. 4 ("[t]he parties disagree concerning whether the secured lender members are insiders by virtue of their having contributed their shares to a voting trust . . . controlled by the Debtors' CEO."). The Committees' arguments miss the mark for several reasons.
- 15. First, the proposed transaction under the APA is not a sale to an insider of the Debtor.⁷ An "insider" includes, in relevant part: (1) a director of the debtor; (2) an officer of the debtor;⁸ (3) a person in control of the debtor; (4) a partnership in which the debtor is a general partner; (5) a general partner of the debtor; (6) a relative of a general partner,

⁶ Both Committee Objections inaccurately assert that Mr. Bao controls a "voting trust" made up of shares contributed by, among others, the Secured Lenders. The agreement, entitled a "Stockholders Agreement," is a fully revocable power of attorney designating Mr. Bao as the participants' agent. It does not, in other words, affect a stock transfer and sever the participants' beneficial interests from the subject shares. *Cf.*, *e.g.*, *In re Morse*, 247 N.Y. 290, 297 (1928) ("[a] voting trust agreement confers on voting trustees the right to vote on stock transferred to them for such purpose, irrevocably for a definite period. Stock transferred under such an agreement is canceled and trust certificates are issued by the trustees to the stockholders. The right to vote is thereby separated from the beneficial ownership of the stock."). Thus, the agreement does not create a voting trust.

⁷ As an initial matter, an assessment of insider status is more appropriately reserved for preference actions under Section 547 of the Bankruptcy Code rather than asset sales under Section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code. *Compare* 11 U.S.C. § 547(b)(4)(B) (prescribing different preference lookback periods for "insider[s]") *with* 11 U.S.C. § 363 (no use of the word "insider.").

⁸ The CC Objection cites the erroneous testimony of Mr. McFarland, one of Debtors' counsel appearing before the Admiralty Court, for the proposition that Mr. Bao "may have a financial interest" in Apollo Global Management, LLC. Mr. McFarland inadvertently misspoke – Mr. Bao does not now hold, nor has he ever held, an interest in Apollo. Mr. McFarland has since corrected the record. *See* Periodic Report of R.M.S. Titanic Inc [D.E. 1172-1].

director, officer, or person in control of the debtor; (7) an affiliate, or insider of an affiliate as if such affiliate were the debtor; or (8) a managing agent of the debtor. 11 U.S.C. § 101(31). The Stalking Horse Purchaser unequivocally does not fall into any of the foregoing categories and is not, therefore, an "insider" within the meaning of the Bankruptcy Code. And the shareholders of the Stalking Horse Purchaser do not exercise actual managerial control over the Debtors.

- 16. More importantly, even assuming the Stalking Horse Purchaser fits within the definition of "insider" and it does not the Debtors' APA still surpasses the heightened scrutiny sometimes reserved for insider transactions. The Bankruptcy Code does not delineate the boundaries of heightened scrutiny; however, certain courts have characterized it as requiring a showing that the "transaction is the result of bonafide [sic] arm's length transactions" and "that the assets are being sold for the highest price attainable." *In re Tidal Constr. Co.*, 446 B.R. 620, 624 (Bankr. S.D. Ga. 2009). Here, the Debtors will make that showing at the August 30, 2018 hearing to consider approval of the Sale Motion.
- 17. Indeed, the APA is the <u>only</u> fully funded, committed offer for the Debtors' assets, notwithstanding over a years'-worth of extensive marketing efforts by the Debtors and their financial advisor, GlassRatner. This alone supports a finding that the purchase price is the "highest price attainable." *See id.* ("[b]ecause [the assets] have been exposed to

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⁹ The EC Objection states that the Secured Lenders are insiders because "each was a 'person in control of the Debtor' under 11 U.S.C. § 101(31)." EC Objection, at 15. This is both legally incorrect and logically inconsistent with the Equity Committee's later representation that "those shares are in a voting trust controlled by Daoping Bao." EC Objection, at 19. *See also Shubert v. Lucent Techs. Inc (In re Winstar Communs., Inc.)*, 554 F.3d 382, 396 n.5 (3d Cir. 2009) ("person in control" requires a finding of "day-to-day control, rather than some monitoring or exertion of influence regarding financial transactions in which the creditor has a direct stake.").

the market for an extended period of time without being purchased, I am convinced that the [debtor's] collateral is being transferred . . . for the highest price reasonably attainable. As such, this sale meets the higher scrutiny due insider sales."). Nonetheless, the APA remains subject to higher and better offers at an auction – thereby ensuring the highest purchase price possible.

- 18. Further, the Debtors have been open and honest about the APA and its participants, fully disclosing all known relationships among parties. *See* Sale Motion, at ¶ 32. Finally, the APA was marketed through GlassRatner, negotiated by and between counsel for the Debtors and counsel for the APA counterparties, and approved by the Board of Directors of the Debtor. The negotiations were extensive covering virtually all material deal points, including purchase price, contingencies, bid protections, and the possible bankruptcy filing of certain Canadian entities and entirely arm's-length.
- 19. Altogether, this is more than adequate to withstand even heightened scrutiny. See, e.g., Mission Products Holdings, v. Old Cold LLC (in re Old Cold LLC), 558 B.R. 500 (B.A.P. 1st Cir. 2016) (upholding a sale of virtually all of the debtor's assets to the majority owner of the debtor's outstanding shares, where, among other things, the assets had been marketed by a financial advisor and the majority shareholder had recused himself from the sale process, been designated as the staking horse bidder, and later was the highest bidder at the auction). Accordingly, to the extent the Committee Objections rely on an allegation or finding of insider status, they should be overruled.

¹⁰ Mr. Bao, an officer who also sits on the Board, was excluded from the vote on the APA to avoid even the appearance of any impropriety.

II. COMPETITIVE BIDDING

- 20. The Equity Committee asserts its first objection on the basis of perceived bid solicitation limitations or restrictions. Specifically, the EC Objection quotes § 5.12 of the APA to create the impression that the APA prohibits the Debtors from soliciting competing bids for the majority of the sale process. *See* EC Objection, at § A.i. ("[u]nder the APA the Debtors agreed that between the date of entry into the APA, June 14, 2018, through the conclusion of the auction, the **Debtors would not** '(A) *initiate contact with, or solicit or encourage submission of any inquiries* . . .") (emphasis in original). This characterization of the APA is wrong.
- 21. The APA does <u>not</u> prohibit the Debtors from soliciting inquiries, proposals, etc. "between the date of entry into the APA . . . through the conclusion of the auction." Instead, the APA by its clear terms prohibits the Debtors from soliciting only "between the date of [the APA] and the date the Bid[] Procedures Order is entered by the Bankruptcy Court" and then again "from and after the date the auction is declared closed." APA, at § 5.12(a)(i), (ii). The Debtors, in other words, are free to solicit between the entry of the Bid Procedures Order and the proposed auction which dovetails with the entire purpose of having a sale subject to higher and better offers. In fact, the Bid Procedures expressly contemplate that the Debtors will actively solicit offers for a competing transaction. *See* Bidding Procedures, § III.A. ("[f]ollowing approval of the Bidding Procedures and until the Bid Deadline (as defined below), the Debtors intend to contact the Contact Parties to explore their interest and may initiate contact with, or solicit or encourage submission of any Qualified Bids by any person or otherwise facilitate any effort or attempt to make a Qualified

Bid."). The EC Objection's characterization of the solicitation provisions under the APA is inaccurate.

- 22. Subsection (ii) of the EC Objection consists of substantially similar misrepresentations. The Equity Committee argues that "the Bid[] Procedures permit the Debtors to limit solicitation of bidders only to those potential bidders who have previously conducted due diligence *and been invited by the Debtors to bid. See* Sale Motion, at ¶ 36." EC Objection, at 10 (emphasis in original). Again, the Equity Committee's characterization of the Bid Procedures is wrong. The Bid Procedures do not "limit solicitation of bidders to only those bidders who have previously conducted due diligence" Rather, the Bid Procedures provide that the Debtors may "contact the Contact Parties to explore their interest" and "may initiate contact with, or solicit or encourage submission of any Qualified Bids by any person or otherwise facilitate any effort or attempt to make a Qualified Bid." Sale Motion, Ex. A 1, Bid Procedures, at § III.A.
- 23. "Contact Parties" is defined in the APA as "parties whom the Debtors believe may potentially be interested in consummating, and whom the Debtors reasonably believe would have the financial resources to consummate, a competing transaction to that of the Stalking Horse Purchaser," and it includes approximately 140 parties, identified with the advice and input from both Committees. Sale Motion, Ex. A 1, Bid Procedures, at §

¹¹ As an initial matter, paragraph 36 of the Sale Motion has very little to do with specific solicitation procedures – it is a charted summary of the Bid Procedures and, in any event, does not reference an invitation-only bid solicitation.

¹² See Deposition of Marshall Glade, dated August 24, 2018 (hereinafter, the "Marshall Depo.") at 16:21 – 17:4 ("in conjunction with the equity and the Debtor and the creditor's committee we developed a target list of – of potential buyers . . . I think we reached out to slightly more than 140 potential parties."). The Marshall Depo is attached hereto as **Exhibit 2**.

III.A. While the Equity Committee concludes that the "Debtors should be required to cast a wider net," it is difficult to imagine how the Debtors' net could be wider than "any person." Even so, the Debtors welcome input from the Equity Committee and its professionals regarding interested parties that are not already included within the list of Contact Parties – a list for which both Committees provided advice and input.

- 24. There is, consequently, no basis to sustain the EC Objection on the basis of "restrictions on solicitation of competing bids," particularly in light of the fact that the actual language of the APA, Sale Motion, and supporting exhibits directly contradicts the Equity Committee's reading of it.
- 25. In a similar vein, the CC Objection suggests that the equity holders of the Stalking Horse Purchaser have partnered to stymic competitive bidding and exclude the Museums from an auction process. *See* CC Objection, at ¶ 11. The Creditors' Committee offers no evidence or substantive argument in support of its theory. Contrary to the CC Objection, the Bid Procedures are quite customary and were designed to encourage a competitive bidding process rather than an exclusory one.¹³
- 26. The CC Objection, essentially asks the Court to rewrite the bid procedures so that the Museums can purchase the Debtors' assets without any of the attendant risks or capital requirements of an interested bidder that is, without participating in the auction process. Under the scheme the CC Objection proposes in conjunction with the CC Plan, the Museums can pursue the Debtors' assets via the CC Plan and yet (i) evade payment of the

¹³ The Creditors' Committee's allegations regarding bid procedures designed to "stifl[e] competitive bidding" are particularly perverse considering the CC Plan would eliminate bid procedures altogether in favor of a private sale.

Good Faith Deposit that is otherwise required from bidders; (ii) avoid the break-up fee/expense reimbursement in the event its purchase is consummated; and (iii) use plan confirmation to ultimately trump any competing sale – even one for a higher purchase price. *See generally* CC Objection. And if, for whatever reason, the Museums later fail to close the contemplated transaction, they are free to walk away without pecuniary harm. The fact that the Museums find themselves in the "unique" circumstance of refusing to provide a non-refundable deposit or evidence of their financial ability to close a competing transaction is telling – the problem lies not with the bidding procedures but with the Museums' confidence in their ability to fund and close a deal. In sum, the CC Objection seeks an order granting to the Museums the benefits of a transaction without the burdens and should be overruled.

III. SPECIFIC EQUITY COMMITTEE OBJECTIONS

A. Diligence Access.

27. The Equity Committee's objections to the access requirements for the diligence room are unsupported by both law and fact and should be overruled. Specifically, the Equity Committee objects to the Biding Procedures' requirement that potential bidders "present evidence of financial wherewithal *before* being admitted to the [diligence room]," opining that such a requirement is "contrary to typical procedure" and bid-chilling. EC Objection, at 10 (emphasis in original). Far from being "contrary to typical procedure," a requirement to show financial means prior to admission to a diligence room is commonplace. *See, e.g., In re N. Am. Techs. Grp., Inc.*, Nos. 10-20071, 10-20072, 10-20073, 2010 Bankr. LEXIS 5976, at *19 (Bankr. E.D. Tex. July 21, 2010) (approving bid procedures that, among other things, restricted data room access to parties who provided "[s]atisfactory financial

information that demonstrates the person or entity's ability to close the purchase and perform all ongoing obligations associated therewith."). Moreover, GlassRatner registered two new users to the diligence room <u>after</u> the Debtors filed their Sale Motion – hardly evidence of a chilled bidding procedure.¹⁴ Thus, there are no "due diligence limitations" that, in any way, support a legitimate objection.

B. *De Minimis* Typographical Errors Have been Corrected.

"unreasonable financial protections" and "uniformity." As noted by the Equity Committee, the Debtors inadvertently included two different breakup fee calculations in the Bid Procedures: one as the greater of \$500,000 or 3% of the Purchase Price; the other as the greater of \$500,000 or 3% of the Purchase Price "set forth in any Prevailing Bid." After discovering the error, the Debtors promptly removed the language "set forth in any Prevailing Bid," as reflected in the Revised Bid Procedures Order. Other than the (now-corrected) inclusion of the additional language "set forth in any Prevailing Bid," the Equity Committee has not pointed to any further differences between the APA, Sale Motion, and supporting exhibits, and the Debtors are not aware of any. The Equity Committee's assertion that "there are significant differences among the" APA, Sale Motion, and supporting exhibits, such that they "have created confusion as to what procedure the Debtors seek to have approved" is therefore misplaced.

¹⁴ See Diligence Room Record Excerpt attached hereto as Exhibit 3.

¹⁵ The Revised Bid Procedures Order and all exhibits are attached hereto as **Exhibit 4**.

¹⁶ The Redlined Revised Bid Procedures Order and all exhibits are attached hereto as **Exhibit 5**.

EC Objection, at 13. Accordingly, there is no basis to sustain the EC Objection on account of perceived "unreasonable financial protections" or lack of "uniformity."

C. The APA Was Solicited, Negotiated, and Executed in Good Faith.

- 29. The Equity Committee's final substantive objection accuses the Stalking Horse Purchaser and its equity holders, and possibly the Debtors, as lacking good faith in entering into and executing the APA. The basis for this objection appears to be the document referred to by the Equity Committee as the "Private Equity Term Sheet." *See* EC Objection, at 16. The "Private Equity Term Sheet" was a term sheet submitted by the Ad-Hoc Group in confidence to GlassRatner. It lacked any financials (*i.e.*, no purchase price, or any other figure) but included the language, "[i]n the event insider-affiliated Equity Holders are interested in participating as Plan Sponsors, the percentage of ownership will be TBD but will be based on a capital contribution from each party that is mutually agreeable." "Private Equity Term Sheet," at 3 fn.1 (emphasis added). Relying on that language, the Equity Committee asserts that "Private Equity Funds specifically requested assistance from the Debtors to put them in touch with 'insider-affiliated Equity Holders' so that they might solicit them to be plan sponsors with the Private Equity Funds' plan to acquire the Debtors to the exclusion of all 'outside' equity holders." EC Objection, at 16.
- 30. Besides the fact that the Equity Committee's analysis is not even remotely supported by the text in footnote 1 of the "Private Equity Term Sheet," GlassRatner forwarded notice of the "Private Equity Term Sheet" to the Equity Committee's financial

advisors a mere two days after receipt.¹⁷ And, soon thereafter, counsel for the Equity Committee contacted the Debtors' counsel, Jeffrey Cavender, to "get on a conference call to discuss the Apollo and Alta proposal [the "Private Equity Term Sheet"]. "¹⁸ Mr. Gurfein, in other words, had full knowledge of the "Private Equity Term Sheet" shortly after its inception – there is thus no discernable basis for the Equity Committee's suggestion that the document is now, somehow, evidence of foul play.

31. Finally, and as discussed above, the arm's-length nature of every transaction involved in the APA is unimpeachable. After GlassRatner conducted the marketing and drew the parties together, the parties – through counsel – spent a tremendous amount of time negotiating and drafting the terms of the APA. Each side was represented by counsel who advocated zealously for his or her respective client, with the parties to the APA extensively negotiating the terms of the proposed transaction. And, when the time came for the Board of Directors of the Debtors to vote on the APA, Mr. Bao was excluded from the vote. There is, in other words, no evidence of anything <u>but</u> a good-faith, arm's-length transaction before the Court. That the Equity Committee has "questions" regarding the formation of the Stalking Horse Purchaser is evidence of nothing – particularly considering that the Equity Committee has obtained significant discovery regarding the APA, term sheet, and sale process, including a four-hour deposition of Marshall Glade, the Debtors' financial advisor

¹⁷ Compare Correspondence between Gilbert Li and Marshall Glade *et al.*, attached hereto as **Exhibit 6** with Correspondence between William McCaleb and Brendan Murphy, *et al.*, attached hereto as **Exhibit 7**.

¹⁸ Correspondence between P. Gurfein and J. Cavender, attached hereto as Exhibit 8.

employed by GlassRatner. The Equity Committee's objections based on good faith should, therefore, be overruled.

IV. SPECIFIC CREDITORS' COMMITTEE OBJECTIONS

- 32. Although styled as a "limited" objection, the CC Objection is anything but a limited objection. The CC Objection and accompanying proposed Order seek, among other things, to strip the Stalking Horse Purchaser of its bid protections in the APA and force the Debtors to provide the Seller Disclosure Letter to the Museums. *See* CC Objection, at ¶ 16(c), (d). In addition, the CC Objection seeks to subjugate any asset sale to a Chapter 11 plan. *See* CC Objection, Ex. 1 at ¶ 25 ("[t]o the extent that any chapter 11 plan confirmed in these cases . . . alters, conflicts with or derogates from the provisions of this Bid[] Procedures Order, the provisions of the order confirming the chapter 11 plan shall control.").
- 33. Even more troubling, however, are the allegations in the CC Objection that "the Debtors have refused to provide the Museums and Running Subway with reasonable and necessary due diligence until the Museums fundraise the \$19.2 million." CC Objection, at ¶ 6. The contention that the Museums and Running Subway have been denied access to the diligence in the Seller Disclosure Letter is patently false. Likewise, the Museums' statements, both in the CC Objection and in prior hearings before the Court, that they are "willing to execute a confidentiality agreement," are misleading. Entirely absent from the CC Objection and prior statements made by the Museums' counsel is that the Museums already have executed a non-disclosure agreement over one year ago, on June 28, 2017.

¹⁹ See Confidentiality Agreement by and between Premier Exhibitions, Inc. and Royal Museums Greenwich, dated as of June 28, 2017, attached hereto as **Exhibit 9**.

Moreover, the Museums have been accessing substantial diligence materials in a data room maintained by GlassRatner for some time. Dr. Fewster was granted access to the data room on July 4, 2017, and several members of the Museums' counsel subsequently requested and were granted access to the data room in September 2017.²⁰ In fact, GlassRatner's records reflect that counsel for the Museums downloaded a significant number of documents (approximately 500) in the data room on July 13, 2018.²¹ Further, the Debtors' professionals have not been contacted by the Museums or any other plan proponent identifying a single diligence item that they were unable to locate in the data room.

34. Thus, the Museums and Running Subway do not <u>need</u> the Seller Disclosure Letter to fully diligence their proposed transaction; they <u>want</u> the Seller Disclosure Letter to avoid the time and expense of sifting through diligence documents. All the while, the Museums refuse to provide a non-refundable deposit or participate in an auction process and, instead, seek to deny bid protections to the Stalking Horse Purchaser.

CONCLUSION

Although both Committee Objections purport to provide various reasons in support of (i) denying the Sale Motion and (ii) allowing the EC Plan and CC Plan to go forward, neither has confronted the fact that there is only one transaction in front of the Court with adequate, confirmed funding: the APA. And, more to the point, the Debtors have affirmatively shown that the APA is a good-faith, arm's-length transaction, which is subject

²⁰ See Correspondence between GlassRatner and Davis Polk, and Correspondence between GlassRatner and Dr. Fewster, both attached hereto as **Exhibit 10.**

²¹ See Diligence Room Record Excerpt, attached hereto as <u>Exhibit 11</u> (showing access to the diligence room by Davis Polk).

to higher and better offers through a public auction. There is, therefore, no basis to jeopardize the only confirmed source of creditor recovery.

WHEREFORE, the Debtors seek entry of an Order: (i) overruling the Euclid Objection; (ii) overruling the CC Objection; (iii) overruling the EC Objection; (iv) granting the Debtors' Sale Motion; and (v) granting the Debtors such other and further relief as is right and just.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court using CM/ECF on August 30, 2018. I also certify that the foregoing document is being served this day on the following counsel of record via transmission of Electronic Filing generated by CM/ECF:

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